

Jesus Calms the Sea

Matthew 8:18-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

“Jesus takes His disciples from the classroom to the laboratory. Having just taught that God’s power will cause His kingdom to grow to worldwide proportion and influence, Jesus now performs four miracles that demonstrate this divine might.” King James Study Bible p. 1501 1. Power over nature (1) 2. Power over demons (2) 3. Power over disease (2) 4. Power over death (1) In this next section of Jesus’ life, we will see six different miracles. Some of the narratives will be short and to the point, and several of the events are given in detail, but they all point to the power and might of Christ. The first great miracle is the calming of the sea; Jesus’ power over nature!

I. Trip Across the Sea Commanded

“(“And the same day, when the even was come,” Mark 4:35) Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he (“saith unto them(“his disciples” Luke 8:22), Let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.” Mark 4:35-36) gave commandment to depart unto the other side.” Matthew 8:18

“And the same day, when the even was come,” – This had been a long day! We are not given a full day of Jesus’ activities very often within the Gospels but it is an opportunity to get an idea of the long, difficult days Jesus endured on earth! Warren Wiersbe went as far as to say this was a “crisis day” in the ministry of Christ. p. 37 Let’s look at this day’s activities:

- Heals the possessed, deaf, and dumb man – probably Peter’s home in Capernaum – Matthew 12
- Religious Leaders accuse Jesus of doing His work by the power of the Devil/asked to do a sign – Matthew 12/Mark 3
- Mary and His brothers come to take Him – points to disciples, “Behold my mother and my brethren.” – Matthew 12/Mark 3/Luke 8
- This discourse of ten parables by the seaside – Matthew 13/Mark 4/Luke 8
- Calming of the sea – “Peace be still”

“Let us pass over unto the other side.” – It was the continued press and crowds that seemed to cause Jesus to command this move to the disciples. But in His perfect plan, they had a very important lesson of faith to learn! They were on the west side of the Sea of Galilee; the east was much less populated and there they could find a quiet cove or shoreline to rest away from the multitude. One of the jobs of the disciples was crowd control, and it seems they had the job of sending the crowd away. Though often Jesus will work into the night, this had been a long day, I would suspect everyone needed rest. But a lesson first!

“they took even as he was in the ship.” – Jesus was already in the boat, that is where he had been teaching many of the ten kingdom parables. (Mark 4:1/Matthew 13:2) We know there were breaks, for it seems that was when the disciples asked for an interpretation of the parable of the sower, but Jesus used the boat as a stage to speak to the crowd on the shore. Also, other boats traveled with Him. These were not big, and could only handle a dozen men at most, and we know there were always more than the twelve disciples traveling with Jesus.

“the ship” – in Greek, this is a specific recognized boat – not a ship – but “the ship!” Almost all the English translations use the article “the.” Most scholars believe this would have been Peter’s fishing boat. It would have been natural for Peter to offer his boat to Jesus. He would have owned it, knew it, and it wasn’t used for fishing!

II. Trip Across the Sea Delayed – Two “Want-to-be” Disciples It seems that as the disciples were busy dismissing the crowds and getting the boats ready for their sail across the Sea of Galilee, two men came to Jesus. One wished to join His group of followers, and the other asked for a “leave of absence.” We can be sure this was not an isolated case. We actually have such conversations several times in the Gospels. Jesus would even use the same phrases to challenge “would be” followers. “foxes have holes....” Luke 9:57-58

1. “a certain scribe”

“And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. ²⁰And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head.” Matthew 8:19-20

“a certain scribe” – A scribe was a teacher of the law. We know they were often in the crowds that followed Jesus, but most were hostile to Him and His message. This really was noteworthy; a scribe verbalizing a desire to follow Christ. Jesus had fishermen, a former tax collector, a political zealot, and a hodgepodge of simple, common people as disciples. I can only imagine the disciples thinking that adding a Religious Leader would give some credibility to Jesus’ ministry. The scribe seemed to be honestly at the point of choosing Christ, but as we see with Jesus’ comments to him, he might have been rushed into his decision by the sudden movement of Jesus to leave.

“Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.” – This was a statement of commitment (no limits, no restraints, volunteering) both physically and spiritually and with it, the scribe was turning his back on his position and peers. It is interesting to note the name “Master” is a weak reference to Jesus. It means “teacher” vs. the stronger meaning of “boss, leader.” It doesn’t carry the weight of “Lord.” Most who used this name didn’t believe Jesus was the Messiah. I don’t think we can use this against him, and I suspect that he was sincere, I think it might only indicate that this scribe had much to learn and unlearn!

“Son of man hath not where to lay his head.” – When Jesus spoke, He always cut to the very issues of the heart of man. From Jesus’ comments we can see this scribe hadn’t considered the personal cost of following Jesus. “not where to lay his head” indicates Jesus lived in poverty; He had no home, no security, and no comforts of life. And this was what the scribe would face as a Christ-follower, and he had to be prepared for it; ready to sacrifice. It wasn’t going to be comfortable physically, financially, or professionally! There was no guarantee of financial reward or ease. The scribe professed absolute allegiance, but Jesus knew he didn’t understand the full impact! He didn’t understand the vigor, suffering, and inconvenience of being a committed follower of Jesus, and this is what Christ challenged him with.

“Son of man” – This is the name Jesus used to refer to Himself. His use of it is recorded about 80 times in the Gospels! It is an Old Testament Messianic term from Dan. 7:13-14 and when the Jewish masses heard Christ use it, they understood He was referring to Himself as the Messiah. Please realize, that this was extremely obvious to the Jews.

2. “another of his disciples”

“And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. ²² But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.” Matthew 8:21-22

“another of his disciples” – So evidently, this man was already a follower, and now either because of conscience or necessity's sake, he is asking Jesus for permission to leave instead of going across the Sea of Galilee. When we think of “disciple,” what do we picture? One who is a follower of Jesus, a student of His words, one who has made the commitment to Jesus and recognizes that He is the Messiah! But remember, Judas was a disciple, he

was even chosen by Jesus to be part of the inner twelve. Yet, he was known as the deceiver! And how about this man, he followed Jesus, but was not completely loyal to Christ!

“Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father” – There are many theories as to what this might mean. But understanding the customs and culture of 1st century Judaism, it is probably leaving Christ to go and care for his father until his death with plans to eventually return. Family structure and responsibility were seen as a sacred job. We can only guess what was going on in this man’s life; perhaps his father was ill or putting pressure on him to come back from following Jesus and support him. Most scholars believe that the father had not just died, and this disciple needed to go home for the funeral. The way funerals were conducted hours after a death, it’s very unlikely this disciple would have been at the seaside with Jesus and not with his family and ailing father.

“Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.” – Jesus’ reply seems cold and unsympathetic, but remember, Jesus cuts to the core of the heart’s issue. He saw the motivations and true attitude of this disciple, as a weakness in allegiance. God’s priorities are not man’s priorities and here we see family loyalty vs. following Christ. This issue of discipleship Jesus will address several times in very plain terms. (Matthew 10:37-39) The disciple may have referred to Jesus as “Lord,” but it seems like Christ was not “Lord of all” to him. In 2024, this is still a very real struggle among the followers of Jesus.

III. Trip Across the Sea in Peril

“And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. ²⁴And (“as they sailed he fell asleep :” Luke 8:23), behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea (“there came down a (“great” Mark 4:37) storm of wind on the lake” Luke 8:23), insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves (“so that it was now full.” Mark 4:37) (“and were in jeopardy (grave danger.” Luke 8:23): but he was asleep (“in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow” Mark 4:38). ²⁵And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, (“Master, carest thou not that we perish?” Mark 4:38; “Master, master, we perish.” Luke 8:24) Lord, save us: we perish.” Matthew 8:23-25

“his disciples followed him.” – What a wonderful simple statement after the two incidents of the “want-to-be” disciples. His true disciples followed Him right in the boat!

“as they sailed he fell asleep” – As we have said, this has been a very long, busy day. As soon as they were away from the shore, and the boat gently rocked back and forth, Jesus was asleep. Every Gospel book tells us Christ slept. This is the only time we read that Jesus, God in the flesh, slept.

“a great tempest in the sea”/“a great storm of wind” – The Sea of Galilee is known for its sudden wind storms. The elevation is over 600 feet below sea level. The summer sun heats the air and water during the day causing the air to rise, and the evening cooling after the sun goes down, rushes down the gorges from the mountains high above (Luke 8:23, “and there **came down** a storm of wind on the lake”). This causes a fast exchange of air and makes wind. Fishermen and those acquainted with the Sea of Galilee understood this, but what we are reading about here seemed to be more vicious than normal. The word “tempest” is the same Greek word used elsewhere as “earthquake.” This was a violent storm! I even read that some believed this storm was a work of Satan, other words, it was satanic!

Please understand the peril was real. These young, strong, fishermen were in a panic and honestly thought they were doomed. We know the boats were filling as the waves crashed over them. Because of the other boats with

them, the reality of smashing into each other was another possibility. There was nothing they could do to save themselves, at any moment they all could be thrown into the sea...and then they woke Jesus!

All three of the Gospel books record a different statement the disciples cried out to Jesus:

“Lord, save us: we perish.” – From Matthew – I wonder what they thought He would do? I’m sure they didn’t consider that He would calm the raging water with a command. We will soon read how amazed they were when He did it! Maybe they thought He might help row or throw over tackle, or perhaps just have a plan for gaining safety. I’m not sure, but let’s give them some credit, they knew to ask Jesus to save them! He was the only one who could!

“Master, carest thou not that we perish? – From Mark – Wow, this is so insulting! They believed Jesus was the Messiah, yet in a panic and fear, they shook our Savior awake and accused Him of not caring for them! The word “Master” seems to be the weaker version of this word meaning “Teacher.” They had forgotten everything they knew about Jesus at that moment! His compassion, love, gentleness, and power! I’m afraid I remember times when I looked to heaven and basically said the same thing. “Don’t you care about my pain?” “Don’t you care about my future?” “Don’t you care about my family?” WOW! Impatience, pain, fear, inconvenience, and broken dreams don’t give a pass for such a faithless reaction.

“Master, master, we perish.” – From Luke – Now this title “Master” is the stronger version of the word. He was their master, and they were the followers. It carried esteem. This statement woke Jesus up more respectfully and told Him they were going to die!

So, what did the disciples really say to Jesus? We have three different accounts. Answer: All of them! In the chaos, all three statements, and probably versions of them, were repeated over and over until Jesus stood up and took control!

IV. Trip Across the Sea Calmed

“(“Then he arose,” Luke 8:24) And he saith unto them, why are ye fearful, (“how is it that ye have no faith”/“Where is your faith?” Mark 4:40/Luke 8:25) O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; (“and said unto the sea, Peace, be still (Lit - ”Be silenced, be muzzled and stay that way”).” Mark 4:39) (“and they ceased,” Luke 8:24) and was a great calm. ²⁷ But the men marveled, (“And they feared exceedingly”/“And they being afraid wondered,” Mark 4:41/Luke 8:25) saying, What manner of man is this, (“for he commanded” Luke 8:25) that even the winds and the sea obey him (“and they obey him.” Luke 8:25)!” Matthew 8:26-27

Difference between Matthew’s account and Mark/Luke – At this point, a careful look at the three accounts shows the order of events is not the same. Matthew records Jesus’ words of rebuke to the disciples and then the calming of the sea while Mark and Luke tell us He first calmed the sea and then scolded the disciples! We are not sure why the difference, either one would have made a real impact on the disciples. Consider Jesus asking the disciples about their faithlessness while the waves wash over the ship. Or after the boat comes to sit calmly on the water Jesus looks at them and scolds them for their lack of faith and great fear! Either scenario would have affected them greatly! We will look at Matthew’s account.

All three of the Gospel books record a different statement of Jesus as He rebuked the disciples. All three of them stress their lack of faith. Though slightly different, they all record a question Jesus poses to the wet, terrified disciples. Remember, questions are a teacher’s tool to stimulate a student to think! How could they answer these questions? There is no good answer to these questions. Nothing the disciples could have said

would have generated a pass from Jesus for reacting in such fear and faithlessness. These three questions forced the disciples to realize the foolishness of their fear. Ps.56:3 “What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.”

See HW#18/HW#18 TED

“Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?” – From Matthew

“Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?” – From Mark

“Where is your faith? – From Luke

“a great calm” – Whether Jesus calmed the sea first or after the three questions, the effect was the same. He was in control! The Scriptures tell us that Jesus stood up from His sleeping position and “rebuked” the sea. This is the same word used to describe Christ as He commanded demons to leave possessed persons or to a raging fever to stop, and this is how He spoke to the storm! Remember, it was Jesus’ voice that had created the water and firmament, so certainly His voice could control it! My study Bible notes said this, “In one of His most awesome miracles, He simply rebuked the winds and the sea, resulting in an instantaneous miracle of total calm.” SB p. 1428 The first time through the life of Christ I was impressed with the fact that the seas became immediately calm as well as the wind. The wind ceasing to blow did not mean the waves would stop immediately too. But we are told Jesus rebuked the wind and the sea and they both obeyed the God of the universe and ceased their raging and there was “a great calm.”

“What manner of man is this,” – The disciples went from fearing the power of the storm to fearing the power of Christ! In Greek, the words used to describe the disciples’ reaction are very strong – they marveled, had great fear, were terrified, and were speechless in awe. I want to make this point now! Let’s not complicate Jesus’ purpose for this miracle to His disciples. It was for them, not the masses, the disciples experienced the highs and lows of this terrifying and amazing event! Let’s first look at Jesus’ objective for this miracle and then apply His purpose to our lives! First, let’s review our opening statement taken from my Study Bible, “*Jesus takes His disciples from the classroom to the laboratory. Having just taught that God’s power will cause His kingdom to grow to worldwide proportion and influence, Jesus now performs four miracles that demonstrate this divine might.*” For the last year and a half, the disciples had been with Jesus, heard Him speak, and probably saw so many miracles they had become hardened to the fact that Christ could make the lame walk, heal fevers, restore the blind, fix broken bodies, cast out demons, and even raise the dead....and He did this all day after day! But did you notice this one miracle shocked them that they, “feared exceedingly.” **Jesus moved His miracle-working from the multitudes to them and His miracle-working power to the vastness of nature.** He had done miracles over nature before and would again in the future – water to wine; feedings of the 5000, 4000; walking on the water; and the cursing of the fig tree. But this one took them – the disciples---from the verge of death to complete safety, by the power of His word! **This was personal for the disciples; this miracle was theirs!** And what was the first thing out of their mouth, “What manner of man is this?” other English translations handle it this way...Mark and Luke - “Who then is this?” while Matthew’s seems to have a little different twist, “What kind/sort of man is this?” Suddenly they are wondering, “Who is Jesus?!” As good Jews, these men knew these Old Testament passages – Ps. 33:8-9; 65:5-7; 89:7-9; 93:3-4; 104:5-7; 107:24-31; Na. 1:3-7 – All of these verses attribute God to stilling storms! The disciples were acting like they were **seeing Jesus as God for the first time!** Let’s answer their questions; Who then is this? Answer: God the Son; What kind/sort of man is this? Answer: God in the flesh! Jesus had been revealing the Father to the disciples throughout His ministry; God’s love, wisdom, compassion, pity, patience, and forgiveness, and this night He revealed His great power! That night the disciples caught another glimpse of the person and power of Jesus, God in the flesh, and gained more knowledge of Him! They gained more confidence to follow in faith the Christ! They finished that trip going across the Sea of Galilee contemplating who was in the boat with them. And with a level of awe and reverence walked with Him for over another year right to the cross. Decades later a

wiser John wrote this at the beginning of his gospel, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:14 They didn’t always understand Jesus’ words and works but they later remembered and put their knowledge together with the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit to grow the kingdom. Listen to Grandpa Peter’s words near the end of his life. “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.” 2 Peter 1:16 And we too must understand this power at work for us every day and will lead us to glory! Let’s not limit this incident’s application to Jesus taking us through the storms of life. But realize He has the power to lead us through our lives!

Believers Application:

1. Lessons from “want-to-be” disciples. These men fought two different barriers to commitment as followers of Jesus. One had a desire for the pleasures and conveniences of life and the other a strong family loyalty. Please know, that these obstacles still exist today in the lives of “want-to-be” disciples.

Jesus’ counsel was direct and without apology:

- Others may have the comforts of life, but a faithful follower must have other priorities! But know, that God will supply all your needs!
- Our citizenship and loyalty must be set toward heaven. Those spiritually alive, born again, are called to do eternal business. Unbelievers, spiritually dead, can care for the things of this world. Only disciples can do spiritual work.
- A decision needed to be made. Jesus plainly said, “follow me.” The invitation was there. But keep in mind that nothing should be placed above a total commitment to follow Christ!

Matthew did not give us a positive outcome to these stories. He left off by not telling us what decision these two men made, and most scholars believe this silence is evidence that neither man chose to follow Jesus that day! That’s just too bad, for Jesus was soon going to do an amazing miracle that would have built their faith to follow! Let’s make sure we are not losing out on the blessings of God because we are holding tight to the things of this world! Phil. 3:17-20

2. Lessons from fearful, faithless disciples. This Believers Application is taken from **HW#19**.

Observations:

1. The violent storm didn’t bother Jesus, the faithless disciples did. Throughout the Gospels, we read of Jesus rebuking the disciples about their lack of faith or their little faith! Faithlessness grieves the heart of God! The disciples struggled with faith throughout Jesus’ ministry. They had to learn to trust the power, love, and will of Christ. From the Sermon on the Mount to His post-resurrection ministry Jesus taught the disciples concerning living a life of faith. “...if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?” (Matt. 6:30) Christ looked at Thomas after His resurrection and said, “...reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.” But then Jesus spoke to Thomas of those, like us, who would follow after the disciples, “...Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.” Let’s make sure we are living by faith in the great power of God!

2. Jesus had told the disciples they were going to the other side. No force of nature was going to prevent what Jesus had promised. In the last few months, I have been reminded of the verse I claimed in my college years. *Philippians 1:6* “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ.” I had been a child believer and at a young age dedicated my life to serve God. During those college days I was busy preparing yet the fear of the unknown, the many decisions I would need to make, and feeling so inadequate overwhelmed me at times. This verse gave me the confidence that God would

perform and lead in all those areas! Now I have moved into my sixties, and with joy and praise I can say, God has performed His work in me, and continues to perform it! No force of nature or anything was going to prevent what Jesus had promised! This verse should continue to help all of us to move on in our lives in the great power of God!

3. Sometimes, we may feel God is unconcerned or unaware of our tempest. Realize this is not true but is an old lie of the Devil to cause you to lose faith! During a difficult time, one of the biggest struggles we face is time! Our culture loves instant fixes – instant soup, instant oatmeal, quick weight loss and wrinkle creams, speedy medications, on and on...we are not a naturally patience society! But God knows a very important component of our Christian walk is patience. It is a fruit of the Spirit and something that can be learned through the trials of life. *“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience; But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.” James 1:2-8* We must be patient and let God work, pray for wisdom, endurance, strength, courage, keep speaking God’s truth to yourself, and remember the great power of God!

4. They had obediently followed Jesus but were led into a storm. Jesus never promises a carefree, problem-free life but He has promised to always be with us. A verse my former pastor often quoted was Job 5:7, “Yet man is born unto trouble as the sparks fly upward.” Our family loves bonfires. We don’t even need smores or pudgy pies to enjoy a good fire! I often think of this verse as we all sit around the roaring firepit. There is nothing one can do to stop those sparks, the fire generates them, it’s part of the fire, and so are the distresses and hardships part of one’s life. Paul the Apostle learned by experience about the great power and strength of Christ in difficulties and wrote, *“I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Phil. 4:12-13* We must remember to live by faith because of the great power of God.

5. Fear and faithlessness can often be the human default! Storms of life can cause great turmoil and pain, but the decision on how we react is ours. It is our choice how to react to the difficulties of life, faith or fear, peace or panic. Let’s remember these words of decision from Psalms 56, *“What time I am afraid, **I will trust in thee.** ⁴**In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.** ⁹**When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: **this I know;** for God is for me.** ¹⁰**In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word.** ¹¹**In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid** what man can do unto me. ¹²**Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee.**”* Let’s be committed to living by faith in Jesus our Savior's great power!

Ladies Studying Jesus

Homework – Vol. 4 #18

1. Jesus asked some very pointed, unanswerable questions to the disciples. Let's meditate on these.

- Answer Jesus' question from the position of the disciples' faithless heart.
- Find two Bible verses for each question that should strengthen a faithless heart.

“Why are ye fearful?” –

Jesus, I am fearful because....this is really scary! I could drown! I probably will drown! Then what will my family do? My dad will be devastated, and my mom so sad, she will probably never smile again....I really wanted a life! I just don't understand how you can lay there fast asleep, and we are all at the point of death!

“Fear not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness.” Is. 41:10

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” Ps. 23:4

“how is it that ye have no faith?” –

Jesus, I have no faith because...everything I see around me is terrible: big waves, fear, panic, everyone is at their end! I see nothing that gives me hope, no reason to think anything else then---I'm going to drown! You are fast asleep, seemingly unaware of our plight! I don't get it! You helped so many people, is this how it will end?

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Prov. 3:5-6

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” Jer. 29:11

“Where is your faith? –

Jesus, the faith I had is gone because...you seem so disconnected from our situation! I know you are here in the boat, but do you care about what's going on?! I have all these truths about You in my head: Your love, wisdom, kindness, power, and all the great abilities I see You demonstrate every day! But there You are, sleeping like a baby in the worst storm I've ever experienced and I'm pretty confident, we are not going to make it to land. We are going to drown!

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Ps. 27:1

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.” Ps. 46:1-3

As I consider these conversations, they are all centered on self, the situation, and the perception that God doesn't care! Let's look at these:

1. Self-focus takes our heart and mind off the all-powerful God and creates a lack of faith!

2. Situation-focus takes our heart and mind off the all-powerful God and creates a platform for fear!
3. Letting our hearts focus on ourselves and the situation will always bring us to perceive that God doesn't care!

Jesus always called His disciples to faith! That is accomplished when we focus on the power of our God!

2. Write out 3-5 sentences concerning a faithless time in your life and how God showed Himself strong again!
End with a Bible verse.